

"KIDS DON'T CARE"

You've heard it before but you don't believe it and neither do we. That's why the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board and Wisconsin Public Television are teaming up to produce a new national series.

democracy it is! features young adults (11-18) who are taking action to exercise their rights and responsibilities as citizens. We're looking for stories about kids who have taken positive steps to improve the lives of others in their community. Whether their efforts are successful or not, it is the process that we wish to illustrate.

If you are aware of kids in this age group engaged in such a project, let us know! We want to feature them in our program.

Criteria:

- **INITIATED BY YOUTH** (either a group or an individual) - Adult supervision is expected, but we want stories started by kids.
- **ACTION** - It must have an element of engagement. Letter campaigns are great but we want young people out in their communities actively seeking change.
- **SELFLESS** - The action must take steps to help others, their community, the world, etc. and not just the person or persons who initiated it.
- **INTERESTING BUT NOT EARTH-SHATTERING** - We want to hold the interest of the kids who are watching, but civic engagement is not always about big changes. If it's important to them, it's important to us.
- **BEYOND THE CLASSROOM** - Issues at school are good (eg. dress codes, junk food, classroom size) but we want young people involved in the greater community, not just sitting at their desks.

Interested? Visit our web site at: <http://democracyitis.ecb.org/>

Some stories you'll find on our web site:

- In Wisconsin, a visually impaired youth appeared before the city council to advocate for a training center for guide dogs for children.
- In Texas, a group of students stepped up to save dogs from being euthanized.
- In Washington, DC, kids campaigned to have the cherry recognized as the DC official fruit.
- In California, 70 youth marched to the state capitol to get improvements for their school.

Inspired? Contact us and feel free to share this with other organizations that might have ideas too. You can reach us at the following email address:

edemocracy@ecb.state.wi.us

Thanks for your help. Kids DO care. Let's share their stories with everyone.

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